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**MAYORS WHARTON AND LUTTRELL'S
COMMITTEE TO END HOMELESSNESS ANNOUNCES ACTION PLAN**

**PLAN SEEKS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF LONG- TERM HOMELESS BY 50% AND
FAMILY HOMELESSNESS BY 40% WITHIN FIVE YEARS**

Memphis, TN - Today, City of Memphis Housing and Community Development Division released the proposed Action Plan to End Homelessness in Memphis and Shelby County, a strategic plan developed over the past seven months and overseen by the Mayors' Committee to End Homelessness. The Mayors' Committee is co-chaired by Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. and Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

The Action Plan consists of four goals and 19 strategies to be implemented in the next 5-10 years that will dramatically reduce the number of people who experience homelessness and the length of time people spend homeless. The plan seeks to reduce the number of long-term homeless by 50% within five years and to reduce family homelessness by 40% during the same period. The cost of the plan will eventually reach \$7 million/year when fully implemented (by year 10) and will depend primarily on federal funding sources such as the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care that currently provides \$5.5 million/year to City and County homeless service providers.

Mayor A C Wharton convened a Committee to End Homelessness in late April and was joined by Mayor Luttrell shortly after his election to co-chair the effort and its eventual implementation. "Now more than ever, people in our community need our leadership and our help to fight this battle against homelessness. We know it is possible, though it won't be easy, and I am personally committed to seeing this through," said Wharton.

Mayor Luttrell said, "We must do all that we can to help those in need. As we move forward, I look forward to working with Mayor Wharton and the committee to do all that we can to end the struggle against homelessness."

Robert Lipscomb, director of the city's Housing and Community Development Division stated, "There is a lot of support and enthusiasm in the community for the plan already. We've seen with the recent Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing program (HPRP) that adopting research and data-driven strategies -- which is what this plan is all about -- is effective. That program has already reduced family homelessness in Memphis by 6% in its first year despite the worst economic times in recent history and at a time when family homelessness is rising across the country."

The Action Plan is open for public comment until January 5th. Comments can be submitted in writing to: Mr. Robert Lipscomb, Director, Housing & Community Development, 701 N. Main Street, Memphis TN 38107, by 12:00 p.m. on January 5, 2011.

Additionally, there will be a public meeting to introduce the plan and provide a forum for discussion on January 11, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the Cook Convention Center.

The Mayors' Committee will review public comments and take final action on the plan at its next meeting on January 13, 2011.

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